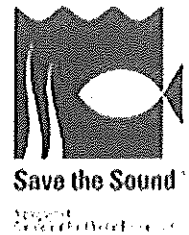




Testimony of:  
Connecticut Fund for the Environment



In Support of  
H.B. No. 6650, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Programs

6

Before the Commerce Committee

March 19, 2013  
Submitted by Mark LeBel, Energy Fellow

*Connecticut Fund for the Environment is a non-profit organization that, along with its regional program Save the Sound, works to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound on behalf of its 5,500 members. We develop partnerships and use legal and scientific expertise to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.*

Dear Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee:

Connecticut Fund for the Environment submits this testimony in support of efforts to establish a permanent heating oil and propane energy efficiency program. **H.B. 6650** would establish a permanent and protected fund for heating oil and propane efficiency measures and a small excise tax on these two fuels would be phased in over the next few years. This fund would be seamlessly integrated into the current energy efficiency programs for electricity and natural gas. These programs include a requirement that energy efficiency investments be cost-effective and provide savings that are higher than the costs. As a result, the investment in energy efficiency from this bill will provide clear economic benefits in addition to numerous environmental ones, such as reductions in local pollutants and fewer greenhouse gas emissions. This bill provides one of the final pieces of the puzzle for energy efficiency investment in Connecticut and would make our state a national leader in this area.

This bill is particularly important because, under current law, funding for energy efficiency programs for heating oil customers will expire later in 2013 and access to these programs would be dramatically restricted as a result. In addition, the permanent program and funding aspects of this bill are crucial because this type of predictability will allow local energy efficiency businesses to invest in expanding their businesses and to hire and train additional skilled workers.

We strongly support **H.B. 6650** and urge the entire Commerce Committee to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark LeBel

Connecticut Fund for the Environment  
142 Temple St., Suite 305  
New Haven, CT 06510  
t: 203.787.0646  
[mlebel@ctenvironment.org](mailto:mlebel@ctenvironment.org)